

Hobbs, NM – On Friday, July 9th, Congressman Harry Teague hosted an energy independence roundtable discussion in Las Cruces. The event brought together representatives from local government, education and business groups to discuss Las Cruces' energy future. Mayor Ken Miyagishima, City Councilor Sharon Thomas and NMSU President Barbara Couture, as well as representatives from the City of Las Cruces, Chamber of Commerce, Green Chamber, El Paso Electric, and NMSU's Institute for Energy and Environment and Arrowhead Center offered ideas on how to create alternative energy jobs, encourage investment in efficient energy sources and increase the city's energy independence.

“As we work to end our dependence on foreign oil and increase energy independence, it's important that all communities are involved in the process and discussion. If we combine our resources and work together – across the government, business and education sectors –we will create more alternative energy jobs and strengthen our economy, while we ensure that our workforce has the necessary training to fill those jobs,” said Harry Teague. “The conversation at the 2010 Re-Energize America conference was a great start and made it clear that we need a do it all and do it in New Mexico approach to our energy independence. I'm committed to continuing that discussion and pleased to see so much interest in our efforts to strengthen New Mexico's role as a leader in the energy industry.”

The conversation focused on how to best utilize government, education and business resources to bring new renewable energy projects to the area, including ways to better prepare students for energy careers and developing new engineering programs geared towards work as technicians for distributed power. The roundtable also touched on tax incentives for businesses, and opportunities for the dairy industry to create alternative energy jobs .



Harry Teague Hosts Energy Independence Roundtable in Las Cruces.

Photo Courtesy of Therese Shakra, NMSU's Institute for Energy and the Environment

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